

APPROVED BY
Erin Shaughnessy



Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board
March 20, 2019 Meeting
Location: Lakewood City Hall

Present: Board Members: Kara Vlach-Lasher, Erin Shaughnessy, Juleen Russell,
Nancy Binder, Emily Christescu, Nancy McDonnell
Councilperson Tristan Rader, ACO Jack Crawford

Not Present: Phyllis Dykes

Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Committee Meeting

Minutes Wednesday March 20, 2019

- I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Vlach-Lasher. 5 voting members present.
- II. Approval of February Meeting Minutes - Board
 - a. Unanimous verbal vote in favor of the motion to waive formal reading of the minutes.
No discussion on minutes as presented. Motion passes to approve the minutes.
- III. Public Comment

Motion to move public comment to the beginning of the meeting; motion seconded; motion passes.

 - a. Fay Olson – Ms. Olson has been informed by ACO Crawford that she is in violation of the retractable leash ban when walking her two dogs on retractable leashes in Lakewood. She feels this law is unfair and asserts that no nearby cities have the same law and requests that the law is revoked or changed to exclude small dogs. Ms. Olson says that a retractable leash locked at 6 feet is effectively the same as using a 6-foot leash; she adds that she does sometimes allow the retractable leash to extend beyond 6 feet. A local news reporter and camera man, invited by Ms. Olson, also attended the public comment portion of the meeting.
 - b. Phyllis Dutton: Ms. Dutton agrees that the leash law is unfair and asks why other laws, such as the helmet requirement for children, are not enforced. She says this leash law was only created because the breed-specific ban was overturned.
 - c. Kelly Babak: Ms. Babak agrees that the leash law is unfair and said she has been seeing dogs running loose on Wagar, without any action from Animal Control; she has not reported this to Animal Control.
 - d. Board members explained the reasons why retractable leashes are not safe, and that this law was part of keeping reasonable control over dogs in public. The board further explained that the overhaul of all of the dog-related ordinances was done last year in an effort to improve public safety and address responsible pet ownership of all breeds.
 - e. When specifically asked to "reconsider this law" in particular, board members explained the role of LASWAB, and that this Board does not have the authority to pass or amend laws and that further concerns could best be addressed by City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

IV. Announcements

- a. Mary Taubman has resigned from the Board via email earlier in the month
- b. Kara Vlach-Lasher announced her resignation from the Board, effective April 17, 2019. The Board will need to fill the positions of Chair and Co-Chair.
 - i. Board Member Christescu was nominated for Secretary, accepted, and was unanimously elected Secretary of LASWAB. (Replacing Shaughnessy)
 - ii. Board Member Russell was nominated for Co-Chair, accepted, and was unanimously elected Co-Chair of LASWAB. (Replacing Taubman)
 - iii. Board Member Shaughnessy was nominated for Chair, accepted, and was unanimously elected Chair of LASWAB. (Replacing Vlach-Lasher)
- c. Notification from the Mayor was received in February that adoption Fees at the animal shelter have been increased for the first time in 25+ years.
- d. New wildlife information has been posted to the City's website.

V. 2019 Committees / Working Group Plans

- a. Working groups will need to be reorganized due to the departures of Vlach-Lasher and Taubman. Board Member Vlach-Lasher wrote the 2019 plan summary for Council but did not submit it because it is incomplete without the dog bite prevention plan. Vlach-Lasher will send the report to Shaughnessy. Shaughnessy will send all members the working group member lists.
- b. Wildlife Education & Outreach Committee – Board Member Shaughnessy
 - i. Board Member Christescu has joined this working group.
- c. Dog Ordinance Committee – Chairperson Vlach-Lasher (Shaughnessy)
 - i. There is no plan to publish new materials; we will continue using the dog ordinance postcard. Board Member Shaughnessy will take leadership of this working group and Board Member McDonnell will join.
- d. Spay/Neuter Committee – Chairperson Vlach-Lasher (Binder)
 - i. Board Member Binder will take leadership of this working group, with Board Member McDonnell as a member. Vlach-Lasher will meet with Binder to assist in the transition and help with plans.
- e. Community Events Committee – Board Member McDonnell
 - i. This working group will handle the LASWAB presence in the July 4th Parade.
- f. Dog Bite Prevention – Board Member Taubman (Shaughnessy)
 - i. Board Member Shaughnessy presented the updated plan. This working group will not distribute materials in the July 4th Parade. The new strategy will focus on reaching children through Safety Town, the library and LRCs in the schools.
 - ii. Motion is made to approve the new plan; motion seconded; motion passes.
- g. Communication Committee – Board Member Russell

- i. Board Member Russell reports that she spoke with Melissa Garrett who will be our point person for social media communication through the City of Lakewood.
- ii. Social media profiles were reviewed for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
- iii. Email blasts are not currently being sent but could be again.
- iv. A printed newsletter was just sent out by the City.
- v. Water bills can be used for communication if it's something short and simple. Last summer they included a section about the new dog ordinance.
- vi. Melissa Garrett gave Russell the PDF versions of previously published newsletters the City has done.
- vii. Board Member Vlach-Lasher recommended online calendars that highlight animal-related dates and months (e.g., Dog Bite Prevention Week in April).
 1. AVMA
 2. Dogtipper

VI. FAQs

- a. The Communications Committee will work with Animal Control to provide more information to citizens in the FAQ section of their site.

VII. Social Media Posts

- a. April
 - i. Dog bite prevention post from the ASPCA (Board Member Vlach-Lasher) was presented. First sentence was removed. Motion made to approve the post with one change; motion passes.
 - ii. Keep vaccinations current + rabies law (Board Member Vlach-Lasher / Dog Ordinance Committee) was presented. Motion to approve the post; motion passes.
- b. May
 - i. Dog Ordinance Committee post will be about dogs at-large and the consequences for violations (Vlach-Lasher).
 - ii. Communications Committee post will be about microchipping your pet (Russell).

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.